



# Town Council Agenda Report

**SUBJECT:** Resolution

**CONTACT PERSON/NUMBER:** Will Allen, 797-2093

**TITLE OF AGENDA ITEM:** A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE CABLE SERVICES BETWEEN THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA AND COMCAST CABLEVISION OF BROWARD COUNTY, INC. TO DISTRICT CABLEVISION LIMITED PARTNERSHIP DOING BUSINESS AS AT&T BROADBAND; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**REPORT IN BRIEF:** An application has been made for assignment or transfer of the franchise agreement for cable services held by Comcast Cablevision of Broward County, Inc. The request for assignment is being made by an operating division of AT&T Corporation, AT&T Broadband. Essentially AT&T and Comcast are exchanging assets in various markets throughout the country to create clusters of operating areas. There is no purchase price for the franchise as the transaction is an exchange of assets.

Section 8 of the existing franchise agreement concerns the transfer of the franchise. The Town must be notified and an application filed at least 120 days in advance. The Town requires certain information about the reason for the transfer and information about the transferee including information about experience of the proposed transferee and financial information. An extremely large binder of information has been submitted detailing this information as well as a CD ROM which details the agreement with Comcast. This information can be provided at request but is quite voluminous.

Very briefly, the reason for the transfer is to create clusters of operating assets through which AT&T can more effectively serve their subscribers in the top 25 U.S markets. The company is headquartered in Englewood, Colorado but they will have a local office in Davie on Nova Drive. AT&T is the largest cable television operator in the United States. There is a list of communities which they serve in the information provided which is 135 pages long. AT&T is planned to merge with MediaOne in 2000 to expand even more. The Town application requires financial information about the provider and experience in providing cable. Obviously AT&T has resources to provide quality service and opportunities to receive a variety of services in the future including high-speed Internet and digital cable, etc. The 1999 AT&T Annual Report was submitted with their application. AT&T will own and operate the existing system which Comcast has in place. The cable television system will be operated pursuant to the current franchise after the transfer.

**PREVIOUS ACTIONS:** Resolution No. R-99-101 approved the franchise agreement with Comcast.

**CONCURRENCES:** Not applicable

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None. AT&T Broadband will assume all obligations including payment of franchise fees. These will be collected at a state level effective Oct. 1, 2001.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):** Motion to approve the Resolution

**Attachment(s):** Resolution  
Resolution No. R-99-101  
Aug. 29, 2000 letter from Margaret Sofio of AT&T Broadband & Internet Services  
Oct. 17, 2000 letter from Cindy Stoddart of Comcast